

MORE ON THE TEXAS PERFIN

by Floyd Walker

When our story was last brought up to date (March 1978 Bulletin), indications were that the State of Texas would use a new Perfin in the form of an outline map of the State of Texas. However, subsequent events have changed that.

The latest word from Alan R. Miskimin, who has been offering guidance and counseling to the Texas officials involved in the new Perfin pattern selection, is that the Texas outline idea won't be acted upon. It seems that when the time came to order the new perforator, the manufacturer said the outline map of Texas would be too complicated and costly.

Why Texas is more complicated and costly as a Perfin than Illinois (see I-5) is perhaps best left to speculation and those with a ready wit...and no relatives in Texas!

At any rate, the latest idea seems to be to use a star outline similar to the one in the original (C-10) (C in star), but to replace the C with a single hole---presumably to represent the location of Austin, the state capital, which is roughly in the center of the state. It also helps keep the new Texas star from looking like any of the other stars already existing as Perfin patterns.

Miskimin goes on to report that the new perforator will be a Cummins-Allison desk model with a foot switch (he says it actually is nothing but a check perforator with a different die set-up)/ The unit is designated as a Model 390, it weighs 50 pounds, is 8 inches wide, 13 inches deep, and 11 inches high. It will perforate five stamps at one time, and can take up to 20 sheets at one time...making the total one-time perforation capacity 100 stamps. The throat of the unit will take two rows of stamps at one time. Thus stamps will have to be either cut or folded into strips five stamps wide by four stamps deep. The top two rows can be perforated and then the bottom two rows perforated when the stamps are turned around.

Cost of the unit is \$4,000. The estimated hourly output of perforated stamps is, in Treadway's words, "mindboggling."

Presumably the new unit is, or soon will be, on order. Just when it will be ready, I don't venture to guess. Nor will I suggest that there might not be another change of design in the pattern.

But, thanks to Alan Miskimin, we'll be pretty sure to have a continuing report on this subject. And perhaps one day we will have a new Perfin from the State of Texas.

We'll keep you posted.